

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 COME-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /079 W

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P R 260842Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 811

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL MUSCAT 115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, VN, MU

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT LAW OF SEA AND WMO CONFERENCES

REF: STATE 8673; STATE 10509

1. EMBOFF RAISED ISSUE OF PRG PARTICIPATION IN/ATTENDANCE
AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WITH FONMIN DIRECTOR OF
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, SALEM AHMAD KHALFAN. DISCUSSION
FOCUSSED ON SCHEDULED LAW OF WAR MEETINGS AND WMO CONGRESS.

2. KHALFAN IMMEDIATELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY ENDORSED USG
POSITION ON MATTER OF PRG PARTICIPATION. (GIVEN OMANGOV'S
PREOCCUPATION WITH COMMUNIST-BACKED REBELLION IN DHOFAR,
THIS WAS EXPECTED REACTION.) HOWEVER, EMBOFF POINTED OUT
THAT OMANGOV HAD BEEN ABSENT OR ABSTAINED ON PREVIOUS
VOTES DEALING WITH PRG REPRESENTATION. KHALFAN RECOGNIZED
THAT ABSTENTION OR ABSENCE IN EFFECT AIDED SMALL GROUP OF
HARD-CORE PRG BACKERS BY REDUCING NUMBER OF VOTES REQUIRED
TO DETERMINE ISSUE. HE PROMISED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO INSTRUCT
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OMANDEL ACTIVELY TO OPPOSE ANY MOVE TO REOPEN QUESTION OF

PRG ISSUE AT CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR. LIKEWISE, NEGATIVE MAIL
VOTE RE PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT WMO CONGRESS PRESUMABLY WILL
BE CAST DIRECTLY FROM FONMIN IN MUSCAT.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS CONFIDENT THAT OMANGOV IS
SINCERELY OPPOSED TO PRG PARTICIPATION/REPRESENTATION.
HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE CORRESPONDING
VOTES, GIVEN SOMETIMES INEFFICIENT BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES
AND FAULTY COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN FONMIN AND CONCERNED DELE-
GATES. EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR USDEL
AT GENEVA TO APPROACH OMANREP (MOHAMMAD ALI AL-GHAZZANI,
A TUNISIAN NATIONAL), REFER TO FACT THAT MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED
WITH FONMIN IN MUSCAT, AND ASK HIM IF HE HAD RECEIVED VOTING
INSTRUCTIONS. FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE INFORMATION CONCERNING RESULTS OF ANY SUCH
APPROACH.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT00115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0179
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750119/aaaaaqzl.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 8673, 75 STATE 10509
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRG ISSUE AT LAW OF SEA AND WMO CONFERENCES
TAGS: PARM, VN, MU, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006